



AD \_\_\_\_\_

GRANT NO: DAMD17-94-J-4300

**TITLE:** Expression of the Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Family in Transgenic Mouse Models of Human Breast Cancer.

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** MULLER, William J. M.D.

**CONTRACTING ORGANIZATION:** MCMASTER UNIVERSITY  
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S 4K1

**REPORT DATE:** August 19, 1995

**TYPE OF REPORT:** Annual Report

**PREPARED FOR:** U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel  
Command  
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

**DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT:** Approved for public release;  
distribution unlimited

The views, opinions and/or findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision unless so designated by other documentation.

DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 5

19951024 022

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE			Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.				
1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)		2. REPORT DATE August 19, 1995	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Annual, August 1, 1994 - July 31, 1995	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Expression of the Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Family in Transgenic Mouse Models of Human Breast Cancer			5. FUNDING NUMBERS DAMD17-94-J-4300	
6. AUTHOR(S) William J. Muller, M.D.				
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) McMaster University 1200 Main Street West Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S 4K1			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5012			10. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES				
12a. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited			12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) Transgenic mice expressing either the neu or TGF $\alpha$ in the mammary epithelium develop focal mammary tumours that occur only after a long latency period. Because the epidermal growth factor receptor and Neu are capable of forming heterodimers that are responsive to EGFR ligands such as TGF $\alpha$ , we examined whether Neu and TGF $\alpha$ could cooperate to accelerate the onset of mammary tumours. To accomplish this objective we have interbred separate strains harbouring either a MMTV/TGF $\alpha$ or MMTV/neu transgenes to generate bitransgenic mice coexpressing both Neu and TGF $\alpha$ . The results revealed that by contrast to either parental strain, female mice coexpressing TGF $\alpha$ and Neu in the mammary epithelium develop multifocal mammary tumours which arise after a short latency period. The rapid induction of mammary tumours in these bitransgenic mice is further correlated with the tyrosine phosphorylation of both Neu and EGFR. Moreover, in established cell lines overexpressing EGFR, EGF stimulation results in the transphosphorylation of the Neu and the formation of complexes between c-Src and tyrosine phosphorylated Neu. Taken together these observations suggest that Neu and EGFR cooperate by recruiting distinct but complementary signalling pathways.				
14. SUBJECT TERMS EGFR, Neu, c-Src, Transgenic Mice			15. NUMBER OF PAGES 29	
			16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT Unclassified	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE Unclassified	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT Unclassified	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Unlimited	

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING SF 298

The Report Documentation Page (RDP) is used in announcing and cataloging reports. It is important that this information be consistent with the rest of the report, particularly the cover and title page. Instructions for filling in each block of the form follow. It is important to *stay within the lines* to meet optical scanning requirements.

### Block 1. Agency Use Only (Leave blank).

**Block 2. Report Date.** Full publication date including day, month, and year, if available (e.g. 1 Jan 88). Must cite at least the year.

**Block 3. Type of Report and Dates Covered.** State whether report is interim, final, etc. If applicable, enter inclusive report dates (e.g. 10 Jun 87 - 30 Jun 88).

**Block 4. Title and Subtitle.** A title is taken from the part of the report that provides the most meaningful and complete information. When a report is prepared in more than one volume, repeat the primary title, add volume number, and include subtitle for the specific volume. On classified documents enter the title classification in parentheses.

**Block 5. Funding Numbers.** To include contract and grant numbers; may include program element number(s), project number(s), task number(s), and work unit number(s). Use the following labels:

<b>C</b> - Contract	<b>PR</b> - Project
<b>G</b> - Grant	<b>TA</b> - Task
<b>PE</b> - Program Element	<b>WU</b> - Work Unit Accession No.

**Block 6. Author(s).** Name(s) of person(s) responsible for writing the report, performing the research, or credited with the content of the report. If editor or compiler, this should follow the name(s).

**Block 7. Performing Organization Name(s) and Address(es).** Self-explanatory.

**Block 8. Performing Organization Report Number.** Enter the unique alphanumeric report number(s) assigned by the organization performing the report.

**Block 9. Sponsoring/Monitoring Agency Name(s) and Address(es).** Self-explanatory.

**Block 10. Sponsoring/Monitoring Agency Report Number.** (If known)

**Block 11. Supplementary Notes.** Enter information not included elsewhere such as: Prepared in cooperation with...; Trans. of...; To be published in.... When a report is revised, include a statement whether the new report supersedes or supplements the older report.

**Block 12a. Distribution/Availability Statement.** Denotes public availability or limitations. Cite any availability to the public. Enter additional limitations or special markings in all capitals (e.g. NOFORN, REL, ITAR).

**DOD** - See DoDD 5230.24, "Distribution Statements on Technical Documents."

**DOE** - See authorities.

**NASA** - See Handbook NHB 2200.2.

**NTIS** - Leave blank.

### Block 12b. Distribution Code.

**DOD** - Leave blank.

**DOE** - Enter DOE distribution categories from the Standard Distribution for Unclassified Scientific and Technical Reports.

**NASA** - Leave blank.

**NTIS** - Leave blank.

**Block 13. Abstract.** Include a brief (*Maximum 200 words*) factual summary of the most significant information contained in the report.

**Block 14. Subject Terms.** Keywords or phrases identifying major subjects in the report.

**Block 15. Number of Pages.** Enter the total number of pages.

**Block 16. Price Code.** Enter appropriate price code (*NTIS only*).

**Blocks 17. - 19. Security Classifications.** Self-explanatory. Enter U.S. Security Classification in accordance with U.S. Security Regulations (i.e., UNCLASSIFIED). If form contains classified information, stamp classification on the top and bottom of the page.

**Block 20. Limitation of Abstract.** This block must be completed to assign a limitation to the abstract. Enter either UL (unlimited) or SAR (same as report). An entry in this block is necessary if the abstract is to be limited. If blank, the abstract is assumed to be unlimited.

## FOREWORD

Opinions, interpretations, conclusions and recommendations are those of the author and are not necessarily endorsed by the US Army.

Where copyrighted material is quoted, permission has been obtained to use such material.

Where material from documents designated for limited distribution is quoted, permission has been obtained to use the material.

Citations of commercial organizations and trade names in this report do not constitute an official Department of Army endorsement or approval of the products or services of these organizations.

In conducting research using animals, the investigator(s) adhered to the "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals," prepared by the Committee on Care and Use of Laboratory Animals of the Institute of Laboratory Resources, National Research Council (NIH Publication No. 86-23, Revised 1985).

For the protection of human subjects, the investigator(s) adhered to policies of applicable Federal Law 45 CFR 46.

In conducting research utilizing recombinant DNA technology, the investigator(s) adhered to current guidelines promulgated by the National Institutes of Health.

In the conduct of research utilizing recombinant DNA, the investigator(s) adhered to the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules.

In the conduct of research involving hazardous organisms, the investigator(s) adhered to the CDC-NIH Guide for Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories.

PI - Signature

Aug 15, 1988  
Date

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

COVER PAGE

STANDARD FORM 298

FOREWORD

### PAGE #

INTRODUCTION

1

RESULTS

3

CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

7

REFERENCES

9

APPENDIX 1

14

FIGURE LEGENDS

15

FIGURES

18

Accession For		
NTIS	CRA&I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DTIC	TAB	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unannounced		<input type="checkbox"/>
Justification .....		
By .....		
Distribution /		
Availability Codes		
Dist	Avail and/or Special	
A-1		

## INTRODUCTION

The Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) family comprises four closely related type 1 receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs) termed EGFR, Neu (c-erbB-2,HER2), erbB-3 (HER3) and erbB-4 (HER4) (Ullrich and Schelessinger, 1990). Of particular relevance to this annual report is the observation that elevated expression of the EGFR family members has been frequently observed in a significant proportion of human breast cancers. For example, amplification and consequent overexpression of Neu has been observed in a breast cancers of the comedo type (Cardiff and Muller, 1993). Indeed there is also evidence to suggest that overexpression of Neu in human breast cancers is inversely correlated with the survival of the patient (King et al., 1985, Slamon et al., 1987, Slamon et al., 1989, Gullick et al., 1991, Paterson et al., 1991). In addition elevated expression of EGFR, erbB-3 and erbB-4 have been implicated in the genesis of human breast cancer (Kraus et al., 1989, Plowman et al., 1990, Plowman et al., 1993).

In addition to the detection of elevated expression of these RTKs, many of the ligands for the EGFR family members are expressed in both primary breast cancers and their derived cell lines. For example, expression of EGFR ligands such as EGF and TGF $\alpha$  can also result in the activation of the other EGFR family through the formation of different heterodimers comprising EGFR and the other members of EGFR family (Stern and Kamps, 1988, Goldman et al., 1990, Kokai et al., 1988, Kokai et al., 1989, Wada et al., 1990). Although these other EGFR family members cannot bind these EGF ligands, they are transphosphorylated by the activated EGFR following ligand stimulation. Indeed coexpression of EGFR with Neu RTKs results in efficient transformation of a variety of cell lines (Kokai et al., 1989).

Direct evidence for the involvement of the EGFR family in the induction of mammary carcinoma derives from observations with transgenic mice that have been engineered to overexpress the Neu RTK (Muller et al., 1988, Bouchard et al., 1990, Guy et al., 1992). Initial studies with transgenic mice expressing a constitutively active form of neu under the transcriptional control of the mouse mammary tumour virus promoter/enhancer suggested that activation of Neu was sufficient for the single step induction of mammary tumours that affected every female transgenic carrier analyzed (Muller et al., 1988). Consistent with these observations, retroviral transfer of activated neu in the mammary epithelium of rats also led to rapid development of mammary tumours (Wang et al., 1990). By contrast to these observation expression of the neu proto-oncogene in the mammary epithelium of transgenic mice results in the stochastic appearance of focal mammary tumours that frequently metastasize to the lung. Biochemical analyses of these mammary tumours revealed that the acquisition of the transformed phenotype

was correlated with increase in the intrinsic tyrosine kinase activity of neu, and the appearance of several tyrosine phosphorylated proteins (Guy et al. 1992). In large percentage of these mammary tumours, the increase in the catalytic activity of Neu occurs as a result of activating mutations located in the transgene (Siegel et al., 1994). Taken together these observations suggest that activation of the intrinsic tyrosine kinase activity of Neu is a pivotal step in the initiation of mammary tumorigenesis.

Evidence supporting the direct role for the other EGFR family members in mammary tumorigenesis derives from observations with transgenic mice expressing EGFR ligand, TGF $\alpha$  in the mammary epithelium. In several independent strains of transgenic mice mammary epithelial expression of TGF $\alpha$  resulted in the induction mammary epithelial hyperplasias (Matsui et al., 1990, Sandgren et al., 1990, Jhappan et al., 1990) that eventually progress further into focal mammary adenocarcinomas. These observations suggest that activation of EGFR can result in deregulated mammary epithelial proliferation. Several recent studies have suggested that activation of the EGFR is also required normal mammary epithelial development. In those studies, analyses of a naturally occurring mouse mutant known as Waved-2 (Lutteke et al., 1993) which carries a kinase defective EGFR exhibits a profound lactation defect (Fowler et al., 1995). Thus activation of the EGFR family play an important role in normal mammary epithelial proliferation.

The purpose of present research is to investigate the role of the various EGFR family in the induction of mammary carcinoma. Our first research objective was to assess whether coactivation of the EGFR and Neu in the mammary epithelium results in the acceleration in the induction of mammary tumours. Because the EGFR and Neu are capable of forming heterodimers that are responsive to EGF ligands such as TGF $\alpha$ , we examined whether coexpression of TGF $\alpha$  and Neu could act synergistically to transform the mammary epithelium. This was accomplished by crossing the separate transgenic strains carrying the MMTV/TGF $\alpha$  and MMTV/neu fusion gene to derive dual transgene carriers that coexpress TGF $\alpha$  and Neu in the mammary epithelium. The results of these analyses revealed that by contrast to the parental strains which developed focal mammary tumours with long latency, the dual carriers developed multifocal mammary tumours with accelerated kinetics. As expected, the rapid induction of mammary tumours in the dual carriers correlated with the appearance of tyrosine phosphorylated Neu and EGFR. These data suggest that coactivation of Neu and EGFR can dramatically accelerate the induction of mammary carcinoma in these transgenic strains via a mechanism involving receptor transactivation.

The second research objective of the initial funding year was to elucidate a potential mechanism to explain the observed cooperativity between EGFR and Neu. One potential means by which this could occur is that the EGFR and Neu recruit distinct but complementary signalling pathways that can cooperate to transform the mammary epithelial cell. To this end we have recently demonstrated that Neu but not the EGFR can directly interact and activate the c-Src tyrosine kinase in a tyrosine phosphorylation dependent manner. Moreover EGF stimulation of the EGFR can activate c-Src indirectly through transphosphorylation of Neu (Muthuswamy and Muller, 1995). These data suggest that TGF $\alpha$  and Neu may cooperate through the recruitment of the c-Src signalling pathway.

In addition to these studies, we are in the process of determining whether a functional EGFR was required for the induction of mammary tumours by Neu. To test this hypothesis we are currently interbreeding the Waved-2 mouse mutant with transgenic mice expressing either the wild-type or constitutive activated version of Neu.

## RESULTS

### **Synergistic Interaction of the Neu proto-oncogene and TGF $\alpha$ in the mammary epithelium of transgenic mice.**

To explore whether TGF $\alpha$  and Neu could cooperate in mammary tumorigenesis transgenic mice bearing the MMTV/TGF $\alpha$  and MMTV/wild-type neu transgenes were interbred to generate F1 mice that carried either neu, TGF $\alpha$  or both transgenes. These studies were done in close collaboration with the laboratory of Dr. Robert Coffey at Vanderbilt university. Because the TGF $\alpha$  females were unable to nurse their young, these F1 progeny were generated by crossing MMTV/TGF $\alpha$  males with MMTV/neu females. The MMTV/TGF $\alpha$  mice were derived from line 29 strain (Matsui et al., 1990) whereas the MMTV/neu mice are derived from the N#202 lineage (Guy et al., 1992). The genotypes of the various progeny were confirmed by Southern blot analyses on genomic tail DNA with probes specific to the TGF $\alpha$  or the neu transgenes (Matsui et al., 1990, Guy et al., 1992).

To determine if coexpression of TGF $\alpha$  and Neu could accelerate the occurrence of mammary tumours in bigenic animals virgin female mice were monitored for the development of mammary tumours by physical palpation. As shown in Figure 1 (Appendix #1), mammary tumours in either the MMTV/neu or MMTV/TGF $\alpha$  strains occurred only after a long latency period and were focal in origin. For example, 6% of the MMTV/TGF $\alpha$  and 35% of the MMTV/neu mice had developed



mammary tumours by 250 days of age (Figure 1, Appendix #1). In marked contrast 95% of the bitransgenic virgin mice developed mammary tumours by this point. Indeed, 50% of the dual carriers had developed mammary tumours at 175 days of age whereas neither single transgene carrier had yet developed mammary tumours. (Figure 1, Appendix #1). In addition to the accelerated onset of mammary tumours, the tumours that arose in the dual transgene carriers were generally multifocal in origin.

To further investigate the morphological differences between single and dual transgene carriers, the mammary epithelium from age-matched virgin carriers were subjected to wholemount analyses (Vonderharr and Greco, 1979). As shown in Figure 2 (Appendix 1), the results showed that virgin mice carrying the neu transgene, morphologically resembled the mammary ductal structure from virgin FVB/N mice (Figure 2B, Appendix #1). By contrast, the virgin mammary ductal structures from either the TGF $\alpha$  or Neu/TGF $\alpha$  were clearly abnormal (compare Figure 2C and 2D). Comparison of these virgin ductal structures to mammary epithelium of a normal lactating FVB/N mice (Figure 2A) revealed that like the lactating mammary gland these wholemounts displayed extensive lobular-alveolar development. However, close inspection of the TGF $\alpha$  and Neu/TGF $\alpha$  whole mounts showed that they also possessed distinctive differences. For example, the alveoli of the Neu/TGF $\alpha$  whole mount possessed a denser cell lining compared to the cystically dilated alveoli found in the TGF $\alpha$  virgin mice (compare Figures 2C and 2D). Consistent with this whole mount analyses, histological examination of the mammary epithelial hyperplasias from both TGF $\alpha$  and Neu/TGF $\alpha$  mice showed that only in the latter could epithelial dysplasias also be detected (compare Figures 3C and 3D, appendix 1). Interestingly, both TGF $\alpha$  and Neu/TGF $\alpha$  mammary glands displayed evidence of inflammatory stromal tissue that was absent in the Neu or FVB/N mammary glands (Figure 3, Appendix 1). These observations argue that the appearance of the inflammatory stroma correlates with the detection of the TGF $\alpha$  transgene. Taken together, these observations suggest that by comparison to single transgene bearing animals, those possessing both transgenes develop widespread histological abnormalities of the mammary gland.

**The induction of mammary epithelial hyperplasias and tumours correlates with the coexpression of neu and TGF $\alpha$  transcripts.**

To confirm that the phenotypes observed in dual transgene carriers was a result of coexpression of neu and TGF $\alpha$  transgene products, RNase protection analyses (Melton et al., 1984) with probes specific for TGF $\alpha$ , Neu, and EGFR (see Matsui et al., 1990,

Siegel et al., 1994) were conducted on 10ug of total RNA derived from the mammary tissue samples of the various transgene carriers. In addition to ensure that equal quantities of RNA were analyzed, a phosphoglycerate kinase antisense probe (Mori et al., 1986) was also included in the analyses. RNA was isolated using the protocol described by Chirgwin et al., 1979. The results of these analyses are summarized in Figure 4 (Appendix #1). As shown in Figure 4A, hybridization of the mammary tissue RNA samples with an antisense neu riboprobe revealed abundant neu transcripts from animal carrying the neu alone or both neu and TGF $\alpha$  transgenes (Figure 4A). Interestingly in tumours induced by the Neu alone (Figure 4A, lanes 2, 4), altered transcripts corresponding to in frame deletions in the juxtatransmembrane domain were detected as reported previously (Siegel et al., 1994). Significantly, these altered transcripts were not detected in tumours derived from the biogenic animals (Figure 4A; lanes 9-11). By contrast to these observations neu transcripts were not detected in hyperplastic or tumour tissues derived from the MMTV/TGF $\alpha$  mice (Figure 4A). As expected TGF $\alpha$  transcripts were detected in tumour or hyperplastic tissues derived from the TGF $\alpha$  or Neu/TGF $\alpha$  tissues and were beyond detection limits in the Neu-induced mammary tumours (Figure 4B, Appendix #1). In concert with the detection of TGF $\alpha$  transcripts comparable levels of EGFR were also detected in these tissues (Figure 4C; lanes 5-11).

To explore whether coexpression of TGF $\alpha$  and Neu in the mammary epithelium of transgenic mice resulted in the concerted activation of the Neu and EGFR RTKs protein lysates from these same tissues were immunoprecipitated with either Neu or EGFR specific antisera and immunoblotted with antiphosphotyrosine antibodies (Figure 5, Appendix #1). As shown in Figure 5A, immunoprecipitation protein lysates with Neu specific antibodies followed by immunoblot analyses with antiphosphotyrosine antibodies demonstrated the presence of tyrosine phosphorylated Neu in mammary tumours derived from tumours derived from animals expressing the neu transgene alone or from animals expressing both transgenes (Figure 5A, lanes 1,3,7,8). As expected from the RNase protection analyses (Figure 4, Appendix #1), we did not detect tyrosine phosphorylated Neu in tumour samples expressing TGF $\alpha$  alone (Figure 5A, lanes 5 and 6). Analyses of the same set of samples for tyrosine phosphorylated EGFR revealed that the tumour samples expressing TGF $\alpha$  alone (Figure 5B, lanes 5-6) and coexpressing TGF $\alpha$  and Neu (Figure 5B, lanes 7-8) possessed significant levels of tyrosine phosphorylated EGFR. (Figure 5C, lanes 5-8). These data argue that the dramatic synergism observed between TGF $\alpha$  and Neu in tumour induction correlates with the coactivation of EGFR and Neu.

**Activation of c-Src by the activated EGFR and Neu RTKs correlates with the direct and specific interaction of c-Src and Neu.**

Although the interbreeding of the TGF $\alpha$  and Neu transgenic mice strongly suggest that the activated EGFR and Neu can cooperate in the induction of mammary tumours, the molecular basis for this cooperativity is unclear. One signalling pathway that appears to play a key role in the induction of mammary tumours is that involving the c-Src tyrosine kinase. For example, EGF stimulation of cells expressing the EGFR results in a modest elevation of Src family members including c-Src (Oshero and Levitzki, 1994, Muthuswamy and Muller, 1995). Moreover, coexpression of EGFR and c-Src results in hyperresponsive proliferative response both *in vivo* and *in vitro* (Wilson et al., 1989, Ma et al., 1995). In fact we and others have demonstrated that c-Src activity is elevated in mammary tumor cells expressing activated Neu and have further demonstrated that this activation correlates with the formation of c-Src and Neu complexes *in vivo* (Muthuswamy et al., 1994, Luttrell et al., 1994, Muthuswamy and Muller, 1995). Further evidence supporting this assertion derives from observation that mice c-Src activity is required for the induction of mammary tumors by mice express PyV middle T antigen (Guy et al., 1994).

To test the capacity of a radiolabeled c-Src fusion protein to bind the activated Neu and EGFR, we immunoprecipitated the activated EGFR following EGF stimulation from two EGFR overexpressing lines and Neu from a mammary tumor cell line expressing an activated form of Neu (Muthuswamy et al., 1994). As shown in Figure 6A (Appendix #1), direct binding of c-Src could be detected in cells expressing activated Neu but did not interact with the EGFR immunoprecipitates. The inability to detect binding of c-Src to the activated EGFR was not due to a lack of tyrosine phosphorylated EGFR since comparable levels of tyrosine phosphorylated EGFR and Neu RTKs could be detected (Figure 6C, Appendix #1). These observations suggest that direct interaction of c-Src occurs with activated Neu but cannot be detected with the activated EGFR.

One possible explanation for these observations is that activation of c-Src by the activated EGFR occurs through the transactivation of the Neu by the activated EGFR as previously reported by others (Stern and Kamps, 1988, Kokai et al., 1989, Wada et al., 1990). To test this hypothesis, we examined whether physical complexes between c-Src and Neu could be detected in cells overexpressing EGFR following EGF stimulation. To accomplish this goal, we initially immunoprecipitated protein lysates from these cells with antibodies directed against EGFR, Neu and c-Src and the immunoblotted these immunoprecipitates with antiphosphotyrosine specific antibodies (Figure 7A, Appendix #1). As expected treatment of the EGFR overexpressing cells with EGF resulted in the induction

of a tyrosine phosphorylated band that comigrated with the expected molecular weight of the EGFR (Figure 7A, lane 2). In addition to activating the EGFR EGF stimulation also resulted in the transphosphorylation of Neu (Figure 7A, lane 4). Interestingly, analyses of c-Src immunoprecipitates revealed that EGF stimulation resulted in the formation of a complex between c-Src and a 185 kDa tyrosine phosphorylated protein that comigrated with Neu but not the EGFR (Figure 7, lane 6). To confirm that 185 kDa tyrosine phosphorylated protein was in fact Neu, the same immunoprecipitates were immunoblotted with either Neu specific antisera (Figure 7B) or EGFR specific antibodies (Figure 7C). These experiments confirmed that 185 kDa c-Src associated protein was in fact Neu (Figure 7B, lane 6). Taken together these observations suggest that EGF mediated activation of c-Src occurs through a direct and specific interaction of c-Src with Neu.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The results presented show that coexpression of Neu and TGF $\alpha$  in the mammary epithelium of transgenic mice results in the rapid induction of multifocal mammary tumors. We also present data which suggests that underlying synergism observed between the TGF $\alpha$  and Neu may involve the ability of Neu to directly recruit the c-Src tyrosine kinase upon its transactivation by the activated EGFR.

The rapid induction of mammary tumour observed in animals carrying both TGF $\alpha$  and neu transgenes correlates with the elevated levels of both transgene transcripts. By contrast to Neu-induced mammary tumor transcripts where altered transcripts are frequently detected (Figure 4A, lanes 2 and 4, Siegel et al., 1994), tumours coexpressing both TGF $\alpha$  and Neu fail to demonstrate any evidence of altered transcripts. (Figure 4A, lanes 9-11). However, significant levels of tyrosine phosphorylated Neu were detected in mammary tumours expressing Neu or both Neu and TGF $\alpha$  (Figure 5A, lanes 1 and 3, lanes 7-8, Appendix #1). These observations suggest that activation of Neu in the Neu/TGF $\alpha$  tumors occurs through a different mechanism than that in tumors induced by Neu alone. A likely explanation for this difference is that activation of Neu in the tumours coexpressing both TGF $\alpha$  and Neu occurs through its transactivation by the activated EGFR. Indeed, unlike mammary tumours induced by Neu alone, significant levels of tyrosine phosphorylated EGFR can be detected in tumors coexpressing TGF $\alpha$  and Neu (Figure 5C, lanes 8-9). Consistent with this hypothesis, we and others have demonstrated that Neu can be transactivated by the EGFR following EGF stimulation (Akiyama et al., 1988, Stern and Kamps, 1988, Kokai et al., 1988, Wada et al., 1990, Goldman et al.,

1990). Because EGFR transcripts and protein are beyond the range of detection in Neu induced mammary tumors there is likely a stronger biological selection for the occurrence of activating mutations in the transgene.

Interestingly, the levels of tyrosine phosphorylated Neu in the Neu/TGF $\alpha$  coexpressing tumours is much lower than that observed in Neu tumors alone (Figure 5). One possible explanation for these data is that lower levels of tyrosine phosphorylated are required due to the concerted activation of the EGFR. In fact, it has been demonstrated that EGFR and Neu can cooperate to transform Rat-1 fibroblasts (Kokai et al., 1990). The observed cooperativity of Neu and EGFR may be due the ability of these closely related RTKs to recruit distinct but complementary signalling pathways. Consistent with this hypothesis, several studies have suggested that coupling of the phosphatidylinositol-3' kinase with the EGFR requires the participation of c-erbB-3 (Sotloff et al., 1994, Pringent and Gullick, 1994). Moreover we have demonstrated that activation of c-Src by EGFR at least in fibroblasts requires the function of the activated Neu RTK (Figures 6 and 7, Appendix #1). Whether the potent transforming activity exhibited by coexpression of TGF $\alpha$  and Neu in the mammary epithelium results from recruitment of the c-Src signalling pathway awaits further analyses.

One important question that remains to be addressed in this system is whether the observed cooperativity between TGF $\alpha$  and Neu is due to the formation of Neu/EGFR heterodimers. However, we as well as our collaborators (Dr. Robert Coffey and Dr. Carlos Arteaga) have not yet been able to detect stable Neu/EGFR heterodimers using both immunoprecipitation/immunoblot analyses or via chemical crosslinking experiments (data not shown). These data argue that if heterodimerization between EGFR and Neu is occurring in the Neu/TGF $\alpha$  coexpressing tumors, the formation of these complexes is likely transient in nature. Nonetheless our observations strongly suggest that TGF $\alpha$  and neu cooperate in mammary tumorigenesis through a mechanism involving receptor transactivation.

Although these observations suggest that TGF $\alpha$  cooperates with Neu through an activated EGFR, another important question that remains to be addressed is whether activation of EGFR is necessary for Neu induced mammary tumorigenesis. To examine the role of EGFR, we are in the process of interbreeding the transgenic mice expressing either wild type neu (Guy et al., 1992) with a naturally occurring mouse mutant known as waved-2 which possesses a mutation in the EGFR catalytic domain rendering the EGFR functionally inactive (Luetteke et al., 1994). The results of these experiments should allow us to address whether EGFR function is required for the induction of mammary tumours in these mice.

In addition to our focus on Neu and TGF $\alpha$ , we are also interested in examining the function of the other members of the EGFR family in mammary tumorigenesis. To this end we have constructed MMTV-driven expression cassettes bearing the other members of EGFR family including the EGFR, c-erbB-3 and c-erbB-4 (Figure 8, Appendix #1 and are now in the process of deriving transgenic mice with these constructs. Once an appropriate number of founder transgenic lines have been established, we will establish whether overexpression of these other EGFR family members is capable of inducing mammary tumour. The generation and characterization of these lines will be the major focus during the upcoming year.

#### REFERENCES

- Akiyama, T., Saito, T., Ogawara, H., Toyoshima, K., and T. Yamamoto. 1988. Tumour promoter and epidermal growth factor stimulate phosphorylation of the c-erbB-2 gene product in MKN-7 human adenocarcinoma cells. *Mol Cell. Biol.* 8:1019-1026
- Bouchard, L., L. Lamarre, P. J. Tremblay, and P. Jolicoeur. 1989. Stochastic appearance of mammary tumours in transgenic mice carrying the activated c-neu oncogene. *Cell* 57:931-936.
- Cardiff, R.D. and Muller, W.J. 1992 Transgenic mouse models of mammary tumourigenesis. *Cancer Surveys* 16:97-113
- Chirgwin, J. M., A. E. Przybyla, R. J. MacDonald, and W. J. Rutter. 1979 Isolation of biologically active ribonucleic acid from sources enriched in ribonuclease. *Biochemistry* 18:5294-5299.
- Fowler, K.J., F. Walker, W. Alexander, M.L. Hibbs, E.C. Nice, R.M. Bohmer, G.B. Mann, C. Thumwood, R. Maglitto, J. Danks, R. Chetty, A.W. Burgess, and A.R. Dunn. 1995. A mutation in the epidermal growth factor receptor in waved-2 mice has a profound effect on receptor biochemistry that results in impaired lactation. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 92:1465-1469.
- Goldman, R., Ben-Levy, R., Peles, E., and Y. Yarden. 1990. Heterodimerization of the erbB-1 and erbB-2 receptors in human breast carcinoma cells: a mechanism for receptor transregulation. *Biochemistry* 29:11024-11028
- Gullick, W. J., S. B. Love, C Wright, D. M. Barnes, B Guttererson, A. L. Harris, and D. G. Altman. 1991. c-erbB-2 protein overexpression in breast cancer is a risk factor in patients with involved and uninvolved lymph nodes. *Br. J. Cancer* 63:434-438.

Guy, C. T., M. A. Webster, M. Schaller, T. J. Parson, R. D. Cardiff, and W. J. Muller. 1992. Expression of the neu proto-oncogene in the mammary epithelium of transgenic mice induces metastatic disease. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 89:10578-10582.

Hernandez-Sotomayor, S.M.T. C. L. Artega, C. Soler, and G. Carpenter. 1993. Epidermal growth factor stimulates substrate-selective protein-tyrosin-phosphatase activity. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 90:7691-7695.

Jhappan, C., Stahle, C., Harkins, R., Fausto, N., Smith, G., and G. Merlino. 1990. TGF $\alpha$  overexpression in transgenic mice induces liver neoplasia and abnormal development of the mammary gland and pancreas. Cell 61:1137-1146

King, C. R., M. H. Kraus, and S. A. Aaronson. 1985. Amplification of a novel v-erbB related gene in human mammary carcinoma. Science 229:974-976

Kokai, Y., Dobashi, K., Weiner, D.B., Myers, J.N., Nowell, P.C., and M.I. Greene. 1988. Phosphorylation process induced by epidermal growth factor alters the oncogenic and cellular neu (NGL) gene products. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 85:5389-5393

Kokai, Y., Meyers, J.N., Wada, T., Brown, V.I., LeVea, C.M., Davis, J.G., Dobashi, K., and M.I. Greene. 1989. Synergistic interaction of p185 neu and the EGF receptor leads to transformation of rodent fibroblasts. Cell 58:287-292

Kraus, M.H., Issing, I., Miki, T., Popescu, N.C., and S.A. Aaronson. 1989. Isolation and characterization of ERBB-3, a third member of the ERBB, epidermal growth factor receptor family. Evidence for overexpression in a subset of human mammary tumours. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 86:9193-9197

Luttreke, N.C., Phillips, H.K., Qiu, T.H., Copeland, N.G., Earp, H.S., Jenkins, N.A., and D.C. Lee. 1994. The mouse waved-2 phenotype results from a point mutation in the EGF receptor tyrosine kinase. Genes and Dev. 8:399-413.

Luttrell, D.K., Lee, A., Langsing, T.J., Crosby, R.M., Jung, K.D., Willard, D., Luther, M., Rodriguez, M., and Gilmer, T.M. 1994. Involvement of pp60c-src with two major signalling pathways in human breast cancer. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 91:83-87

Ma, M.-C., Leu, T.-H., McCarley, D.J., Schatzman, R.C., and Parsons, S.J. 1995. Potentiation of epidermal growth factor receptor-mediated oncogenesis by c-Src: Implications for the

etiology of multiple human cancers. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A 69:81-6985

Matsui, Y., Halter, S., Holt, J., Hogan, B., and R. Coffey. 1990. Development of mammary hyperplasia and neoplasia in MMTV-TGF $\alpha$  transgenic mice. Cell 16:1147-1155

Melton, D. A., P. A. Krieg, M. R. Rebagliati, T. Maniatis, K. Zinn, and M. R. Green. 1984. Efficient *in vitro* synthesis of biologically active RNA and RNA hybridization probes from plasmids containing a bacteriophage SP6 promoter. Nucleic Acids Res. 12:7035-7056.

Mori, N., J. Singer-Sam, C.-Y. Lee, and A. D. Riggs. 1986. The nucleotide sequence of a cDNA clone containing the entire coding region for the mouse X-chromosome-linked phosphoglycerate kinase. Gene 45:275-280.

Muller, W. J., E. Sinn, R. Wallace, P. K. Pattengale, and P. Leder. 1988. Single-step induction of mammary adenocarcinoma in transgenic mice bearing the activated c-neu oncogene. Cell 54:105-115.

Muthuswamy, S. K., P. M. Siegel, D. L. Dankort, M. A. Webster, and W. J. Muller. 1994. Mammary tumours expressing the neu proto-oncogene possess elevated c-Src tyrosine kinase activity. Mol. Cell. Biol. 14:735-743.

Osherov, N. and Levitzski, A. 1994. Epidermal growth factor dependent activation of the Src-family kinases. Eur. J. Biochem. 225:1047-1053.

Paterson, M. C., K. D. Dietrich, J. Danyluk, A. H. Paterson, A. W. Lees, N. Jamil, J. Hanson, H. Jenkins, B. E. Krause, W. A. McBlain, D. J. Slamon, and R. M. Fourney. 1991. Correlation between c-erbB-2 amplification and risk of recurrent disease in node-negative breast cancer. Cancer Res. 51:556-567.

Plowman, G., Whitney, G., Neubauer, M., Green, J., McDonald, V., Todaro, G., and M. Shoyab. 1990. Molecular cloning and expression of an additional epidermal growth factor receptor-related gene. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 87:4905-4909

Plowman, G., Coloussou, J.M., Whitney, G., Green, J., Carlton, G., Foy, L., Neubauer, M., and M. Shoyab. 1993. Ligand-specific activation of HER4/p180c-erbB-4, a fourth member of the epidermal growth factor receptor family. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 90:1746-1750



- Pringent, S.A and W.J. Gullick. 1994. Identification of c-erbB-3 binding sites for phosphatidylinositol 3'-kinase and SHC using an EGF receptor/c-erbB-3 chimera. EMBO J. 13:2831-2841
- Sandgren, E., Lutteke, N.C., Palmiter, R.D., Brinster, R., and D. Lee. 1990. Overexpression of TGF $\alpha$  in transgenic mice: induction of epithelial hyperplasia, pancreatic metaplasia, and carcinoma of the breast. Cell 61:1121-1135
- Siegel, P.M., Dankort, D. L., Hardy, W.R. and W.J. Muller. 1994. Novel activating mutations in the neu proto-oncogene involved in induction of mammary tumours. Mol Cell. Biol. 14:7068-7077
- Slamon, D. J., G. M. Clark, S. G. Wong, W. J. Levin, A. Ullrich, and W. L. McGuire. 1987. Human breast cancer: Correlation of relapse and survival with amplification of Her-2/neu oncogene. Science 235:177-182.
- Slamon, D. J., W. Godolphin, L. A. Jones, J. A. Holt, S. G. Wong, D. E. Keith, W. J. Levin, S. G. Styart, J. Udove, A. Ullrich, and M. F. Press. 1989. Studies of the HER-2/neu protooncogene in human breast and ovarian cancer. Science 244:707-712.
- Soltoff, S.P., Carraway III, K., Prigent, S.A., Gullick, W.J., and L.C. Cantley. 1994. ErbB-3 is involved in activation of phosphatidylinositol-3' kinase by epidermal growth factor. Mol. Cell. Biol. 14:3550-3558
- Stern, D.F., and Kamps, M.P., 1988. EGF-stimulated tyrosine phosphorylation of p185 neu: a potential model for receptor interactions. EMBO J. 7:995-1001
- Ullrich, A., and J. Schelessinger. 1990. Signal Transduction by receptors of tyrosine kinase activity. Cell 61:203-212.
- Vonderharr, B.K, Greco, A.C. and Lobulo, B. 1979. Alveolar development of mouse mammary glands is regulated by thyroid hormones. Endocrinology, 2:409-418.
- Wada, T., Quain, X., and M.I. Greene. 1990. Intermolecular association of p185 neu proteins and the EGF receptor modulates EGF receptor function. Cell 61:1339-1347
- Wang, B., Kennan, W.J., and Gould, M.N. 1991. Frequent induction of mammary carcinomas following Neu oncogene transfer into *in situ* mammary epithelial cells of susceptible and resistant strains. Cancer Res. 51:5649-5651.

MULLER, William J.

Wilson, L.K., Luttrell, D.K., Parsons, J.T., and Parsons, S.J.  
1989. pp60 c-src tyrosine kinase, myristylation and modulatory  
domains are required for enhanced mitogenic responsiveness to  
epidermal growth factor seen in cells overexpressing c-src. Mol.  
Cell. Biol. 9:1536-1544

MULLER, William J.

**APPENDIX #1**

## FIGURE LEGENDS

**FIGURE 1.** Kinetics of tumour occurrence in monogenic and bigenic animals harboring the MMTV/TGF $\alpha$  and MMTV/neu transgenes. Comparison of the kinetics of tumour formation between virgin female carriers bearing the MMTV/TGF $\alpha$ , MMTV/neu and both transgenes. The age at which 50% of the mice were found to have tumours (T50) and the number of mice examined (n) are indicated.

**FIGURE 2.** Wholemound analyses of mammary fat pads derived from monogenic and bigenic female mice. Whole mount preparations at 31.5x magnification illustrating the comparative subgross appearance of mammary trees from: (A) Lactating FVB female (B) Virgin female with neu transgene. Note the numerous side buds which give the mammary tree a spiculated appearance. (C) Virgin female with the TGF $\alpha$  transgene Note the well developed, cystically dilated alveoli. (D) Virgin female with both TGF $\alpha$  and neu transgenes. Note the larger cystic alveoli with darker walls, indicating a denser cell lining in the walls. Compare these preparations with comparable histologic preparations in Figure 4.

**FIGURE 3.** Histopathology of mammary tissue derived from virgin monogenic and bigenic transgenic animals: (A) Normal FVB lactating female mouse showing lobuloalveolar development and milk production. (B) Transgenic neu virgin female mouse illustrating rudimentary mammary acinar development without significant luminal secretions. (C) Transgenic TGF $\alpha$  virgin female mouse illustrating extensive alveolar development in comparison with lactating mammary gland (A) Note that the alveoli are much more distended with secretory products than the FVB lactating tissue but contain fewer clear lipid vacuoles. (D) Transgenic TGF $\alpha$ /neu virgin female mouse illustrating areas of alveolar development with papillary hyperplasia in the upper right corner. The virgin neu, TGF $\alpha$  and Neu/TGF $\alpha$  were age matched (139 days) and identical to those described in Figure 3.

**FIGURE 4.** Expression of neu and TGF $\alpha$  transgenes in mammary tissue of transgenic mice: (A) Neu transgene expression in mammary tissues of mice carrying the MMTV/neu transgene (neu/+), TGF $\alpha$  transgene (TGF $\alpha$ /+) and both transgenes (neu/TGF $\alpha$ ). Tissue RNA samples derived from tumour tissue (BT) and adjacent mammary tissue (NB) were subjected to RNase protection analyses. The protected wild type (WT) neu transcript is 640 nucleotides in length. Protected

fragments corresponding to the altered neu transcript are indicated by the arrows. Tissue RNA samples from #5861 and #5862 were derived from virgin female animals which exhibited extensive mammary epithelial hyperplasias. Tissue RNA samples from #5368 and #5359 were derived from mammary epithelial hyperplasias from multiparous female animals whereas RNA samples derived from #5367 and #4545 were derived from tumour bearing multiparous female carriers. An antisense riboprobe, directed against the mouse phosphoglycerate kinase gene, was used to control for equal loading of RNA on the gel. The PGK-1 probe protects a 124-nucleotide fragment as indicated in the lower panels. (B) The identical RNA tissue samples were probed with a antisense probe directed against the mouse TGF $\alpha$  gene. The TGF $\alpha$  antisense prober protects a 632 nucleotide fragment. (C) The identical RNA tissue samples were probed with an antisense probe directed against the murine EGFR.

**FIGURE 5.** Mammary tissue from the bigenic Neu/TGF $\alpha$  mice possess constitutively activated Neu and EGFR RTKs: (A) Protein lysates from tumour tissue (BT) and adjacent mammary epithelial tissue (NB) carrying either the MMTV/neu transgene (neu/+), the MMTV/TGF $\alpha$  transgene (TGF $\alpha$ /+) or both transgenes (neu/TGF $\alpha$ ) were immunoprecipitated (IP) with a monoclonal antibody (7.16.4) (anti-Neu) and then subjected to an immunoblot analysis (Blot) with an antiphosphotyrosine antibody (4G10) (anti-ptyr). The position of the tyrosine phosphorylated Neu protein is indicated by the arrow. (B) The identical tissue lysates were subjected to immunoblot analyses (Blot) with anti TGF $\alpha$  monoclonal (see Material and Methods). (C) The identical protein lysates were immunoprecipitated (IP) with anti-EGFR antibody (see Material and Methods) and then subjected to an immunoblot analysis with an antiphosphotyrosine antibody (4G10) (anti-ptyr). The position of the tyrosine phosphorylated EGFR protein is indicated by the arrow. The tissues were derived from the same samples described in Figure 1.

**FIGURE 6.** The c-Src SH2 domain does not interact directly with tyrosine phosphorylated EGFR. Lysates from EGF treated A431 epithelial cells (lane 2) or R1/hER fibroblasts (lane 4) were immunoprecipitated with anti-EGFR antibodies (anti-EGFR) and Neu was immunoprecipitated from NAFA cell lysates (anti-Neu). (A) One half of the immunoprecipitates was resolved on a SDS-PAGE and probed with radiolabeled c-Src SH2 domain (GSTag-c-Src SH2). (B) The remainder of the immunoprecipitate was immunoblotted with anti-phosphotyrosine antibody (anti-pTyr). Normal mouse serum (NMS, lane 1) was used as a nonspecific control. (IP: Immunoprecipitation). The molecular weight markers are in kDa.

**FIGURE 7.** EGF treatment results in specific association of c-Src with Neu. Lysates were derived from R1/hER both before (-) and after (+) one minute induction with EGF. EGFR (anti-EGFR) or Neu (anti-Neu) or c-Src (Anti-cSrc) were immunoprecipitated from lysates and resolved on a SDS-PAGE gel. The immunoprecipitates were probed with anti-phosphotyrosine (A) or anti-Neu (B) or with anti-EGFR (C) antibodies. The autoradiograph in panel C was exposed almost 10 times longer than that in B.

**FIGURE 8.** A schematic illustrating the structure of transgenes for each of the EGFR family members. The unshaded region represents sequences with the pBluescript KS vector backbone, the striped region contains the Mouse Mammary Tumour Virus-Long Terminal Repeat (MMTV-LTR) derived from the plasmid pA9, while the stippled region immediately following the MMTV-LTR corresponds to an inert region derived from the original pA9 vector. In each of the illustrated constructs, the black region indicates the position of the various erbB family members whereas the adjacent sequence depicted in gray contains the SV40 polyadenylation cassette. The restriction sites used to release the injection fragment are indicated below each construct.

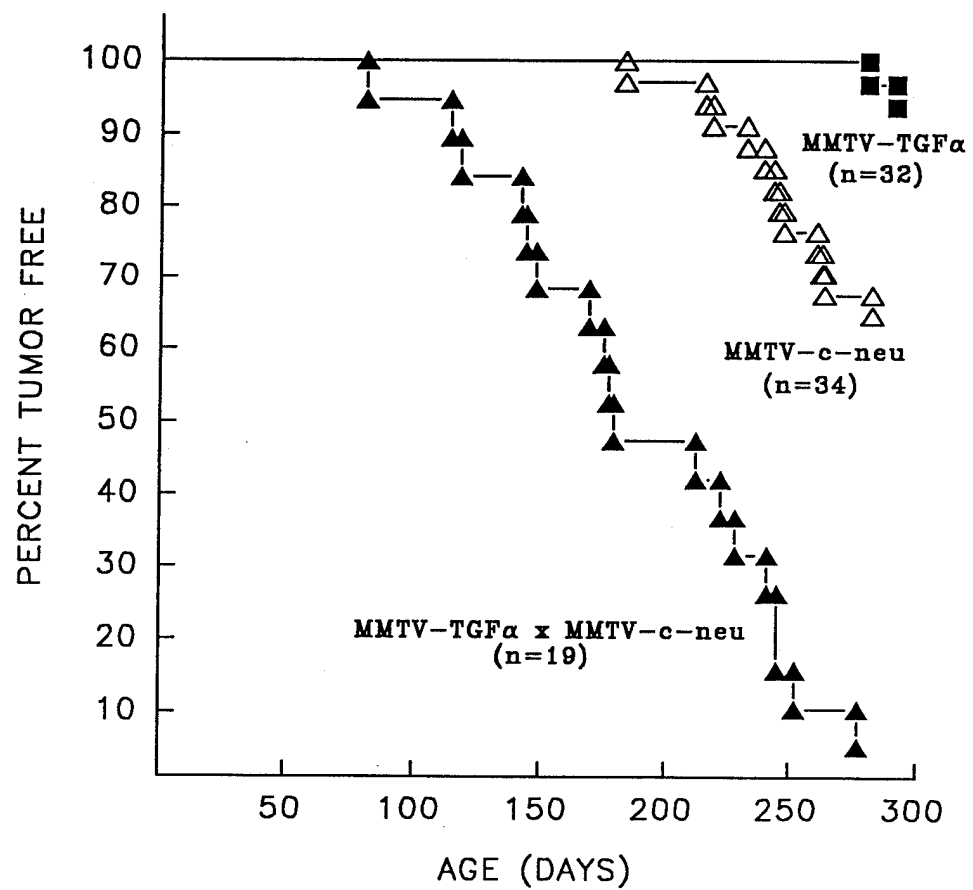


FIGURE 1

MULLER, William J.



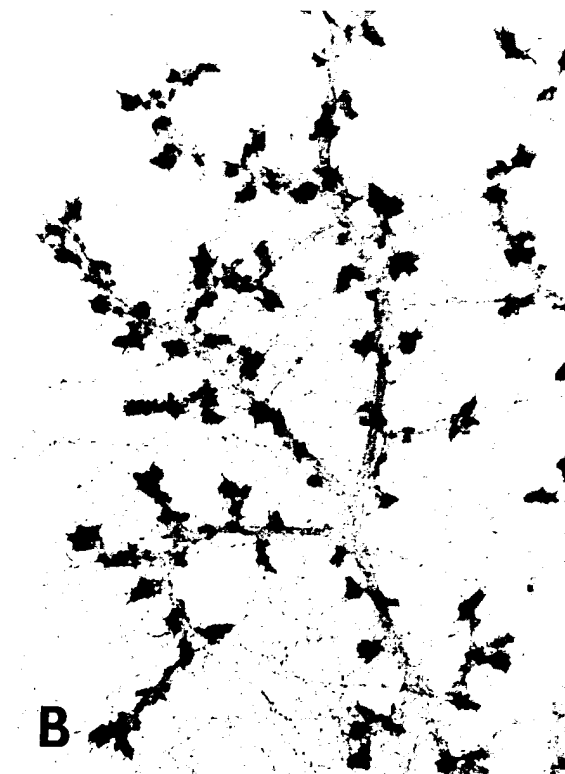


FIGURE 2

MULLER, William J.

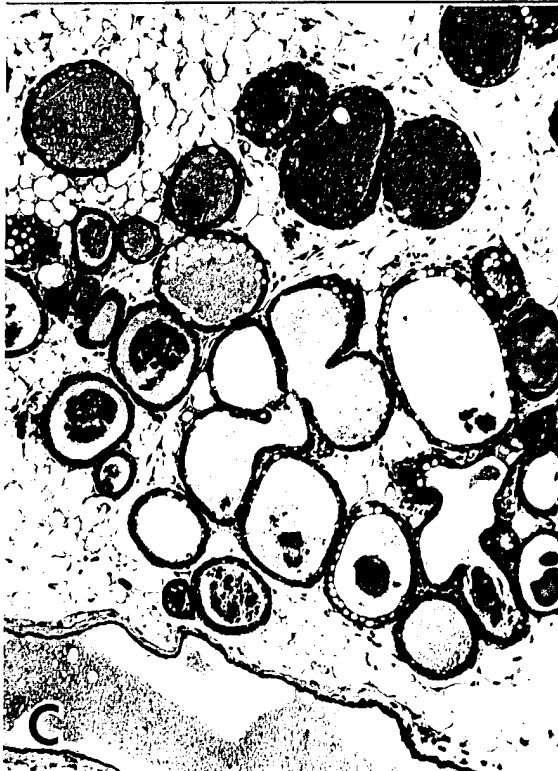
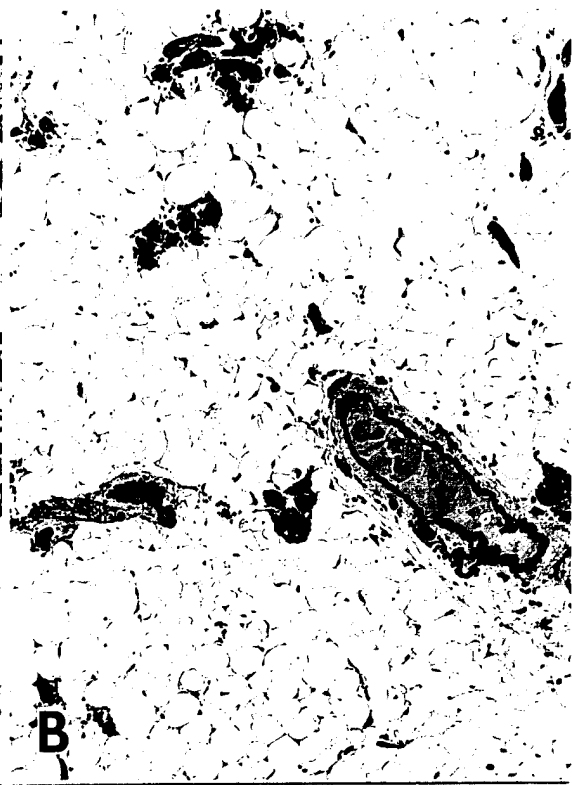


FIGURE 3  
MULLER, William J.

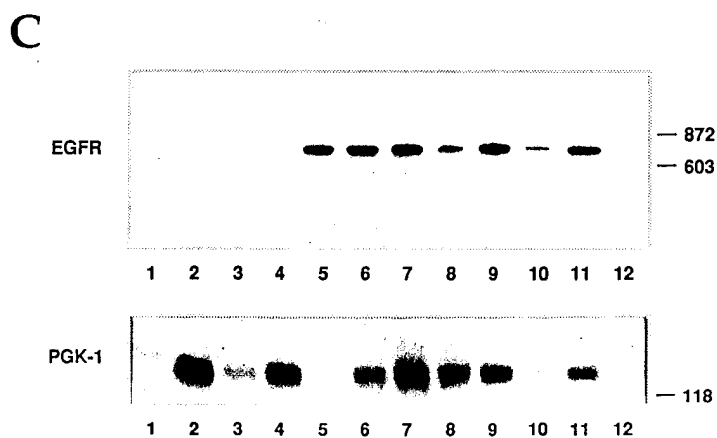
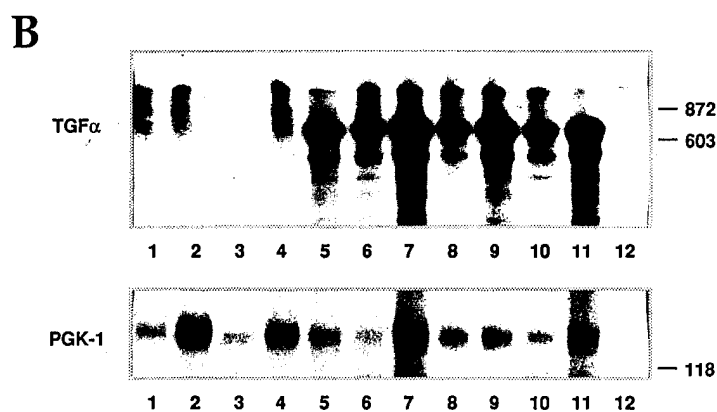
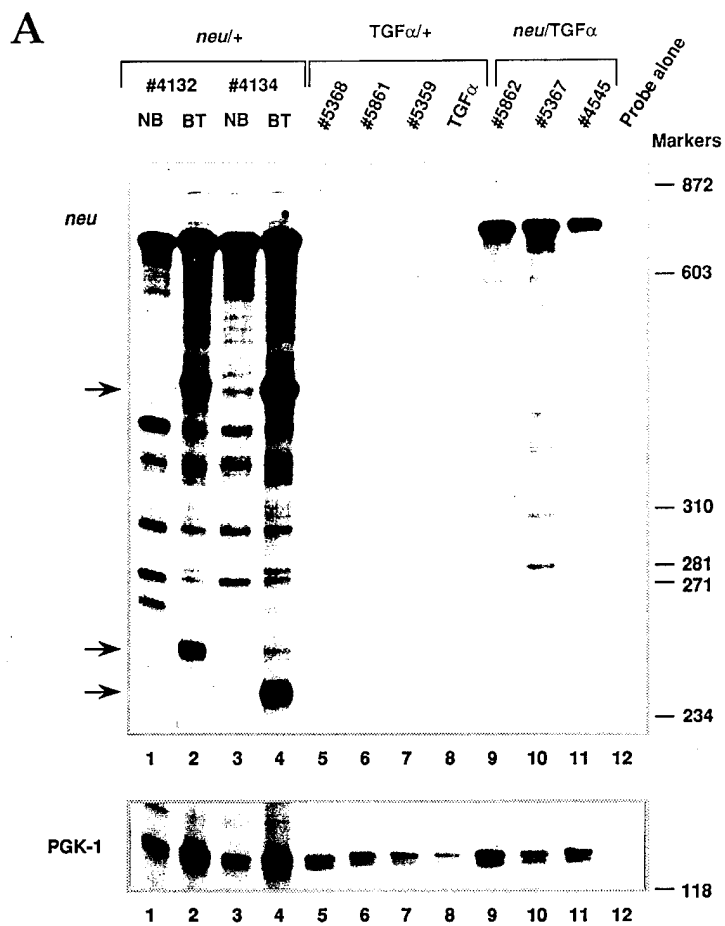
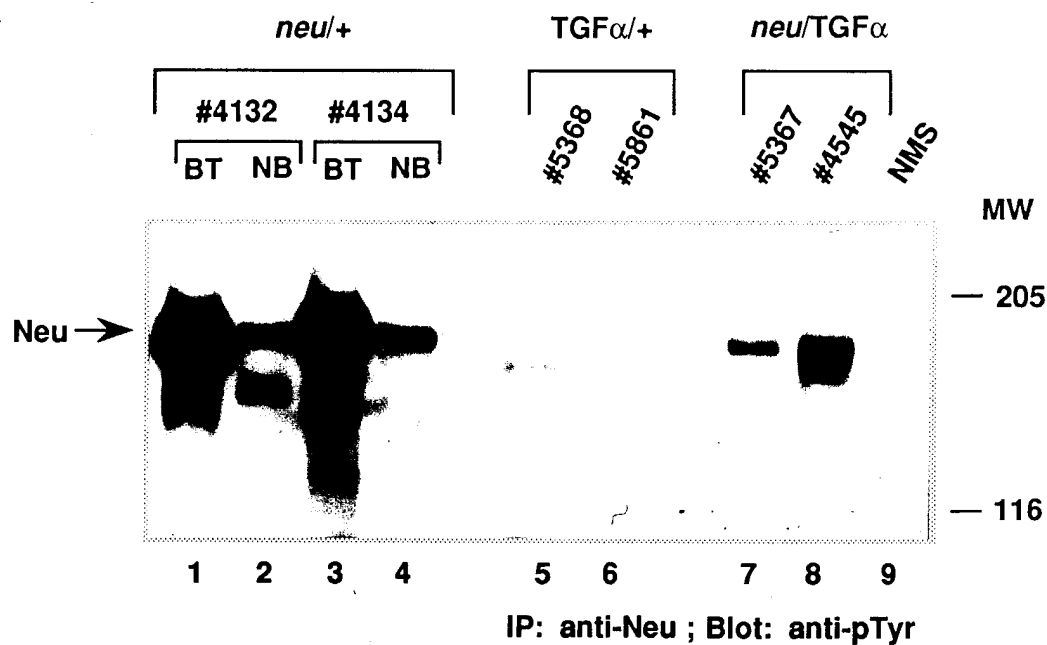


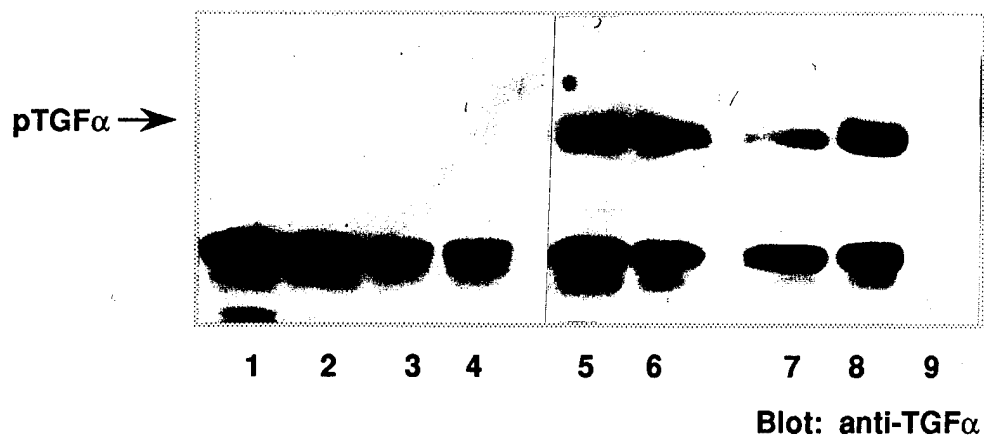
FIGURE 4

MULLER, William J.

**A**



**B**



**C**

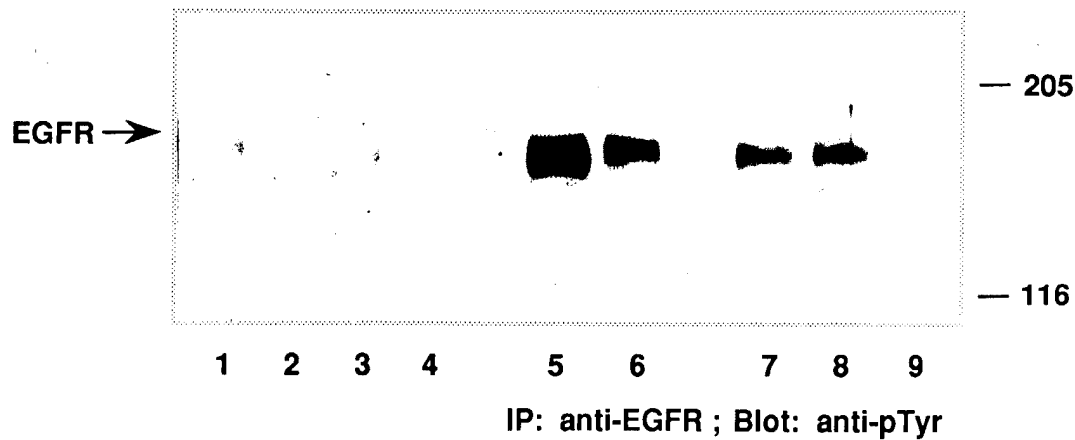
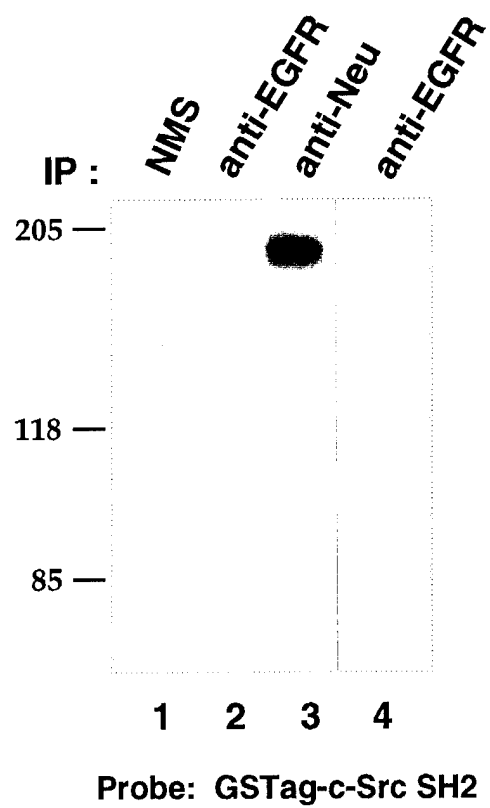


FIGURE 5  
MULLER, William J.



**A**



**B**

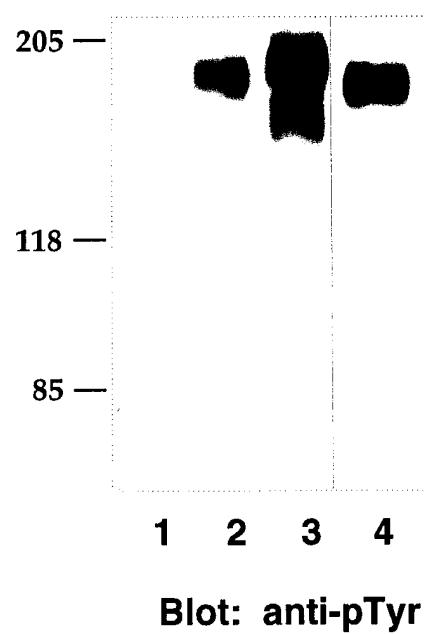
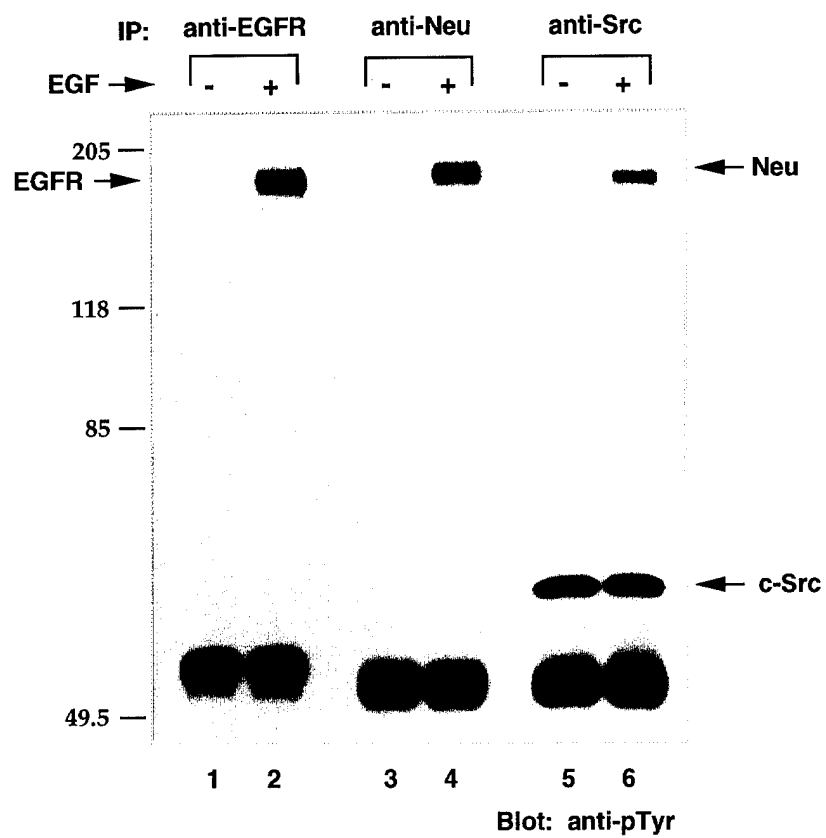
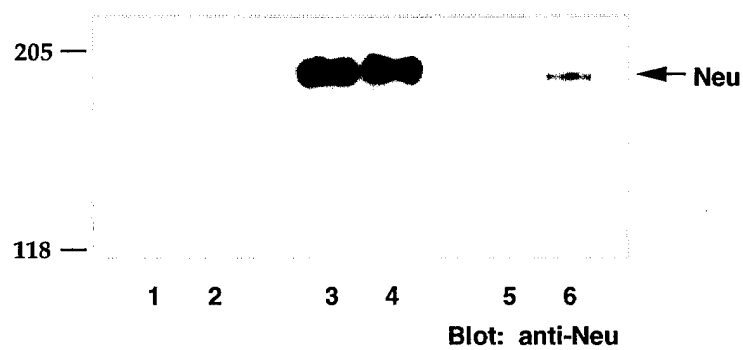


FIGURE 6  
MULLER, William J.

**A**



**B**



**C**

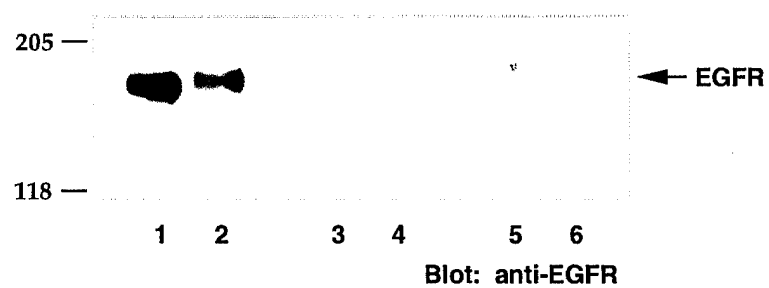


FIGURE 7

MULLER, William J.



FIGURE 8

MULLER, William J.